

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration, reexamination, and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication at page 1 and 6 of the Office that Claims 12 and 37-55 are free of the prior art.

A Statement for Reasons of Allowance appears at page 6 of the Office Action. Applicants have the following comments on those reasons for allowance.

While Applicants generally concur with the statement that none of the prior art discloses the particular feature or features identified in the Reasons for Allowance, Applicants also respectfully submit that it is the combinations of all the steps or elements recited in each of the allowed claims which are not disclosed, described, or suggested in the prior art. Therefore, that the prior art does not describe one or a subcombination of the individual steps or elements in the claims is only one of the many reasons for the allowance of the claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of all the steps or elements recited in each of the claims, as interrelated according to the specific recitations in the claims, are what render the claims patentable over the prior art and not merely the absence in the prior art of any particular step or element in the combinations.

Objection to the Title

In the Office Action, at page 2, the Title was objected to. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection, as Applicants submit that the current Title adequately describes subject matter of the present application and complies with current U.S. practice.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, beginning at page 2, Claims 56-74 and 79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as reciting subject matter which is allegedly obvious, and therefore allegedly unpatentable, over the prior art. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections.

While Applicants strongly disagree with the negative patentability positions contained in the Office Action with respect to Claims 56-74 and 79, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application toward passage to issue, Applicants have canceled the rejected claims. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more divisional and/or continuation applications to further pursue the subject matters of the canceled claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 56-74 and 79 are moot.

Conclusion

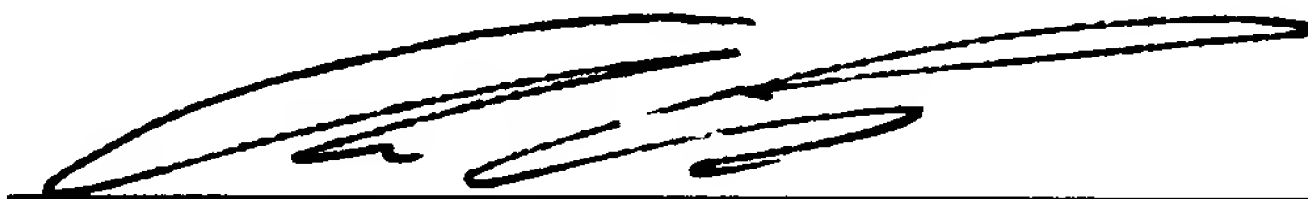
For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present patent application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of the allowability of the present patent application is therefore respectfully solicited.

If Examiner Perveen believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of the present patent application to issue, they are invited to call on the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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